

Posoh My Fellow Menominees:

Spring is all around and I know that because work on the Keshena bridge is finally starting again. It has been a major inconvenience for those folks living on the fairgrounds side of the bridge. Mary Wayka told me the best way to get downtown was to put her canoe in and cross the river to the downtown side. Hopefully, Mary won't have to do that anymore.

The MTL had a special meeting on the MTE lawsuit issue and about 35 people showed up to express their concern on the topic. Many tribal members discussed the cost of such a lawsuit to the tribal people. The MTL is very concerned about the lawsuit and has put forth motions to address the issue.

The Housing director resigned his position and we wish him well in the future.

All of the committees have started their work and actually are in the second month of their work for this administrative year. One of the issues that the committees are working on and have already come to the table is the tweaking of 95-04 which is the tribal government plan. Governmental Affairs is also looking at the Election Ordinance. Legislators Gina Washinawatok, Caldwell, and myself met with the Chicago group this past weekend and they found the current ordinance pretty difficult to work with. Their concern was the notary requirement and the short turn around time to get the ballot back to the commission. In fact, they had to do overnight mail which is expensive for the voter. As a result of the new ordinance less than 10% of the eligible voters from the Chicago area participated in the last election. They did have an interesting suggestion and that was to have a voting day in those areas where we have large numbers of tribal members.

Resource Enforcement and Protection Committee is working to come up with a workable plan to allow limited access to both Menominees and non-Menominees to LaMotte Lake. More on this later.

Some of the task forces are beginning their work. MTL and Menominee County are waiting until the new members for County are seated. MTL and MISD have already met for their first meeting and they are working on safety issues, common lobbying for the Impact Aids which is the main funding source for public schools on non-taxable lands, and clarifying the language of the Language and Culture code and how it applies to MISD.

I stopped to watch a high school baseball game and it was very enjoyable as the weather was warm and there were no bugs out yet. Stop and watch the kids as it is always a fun time.